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FM SITUATION ROOM

TO GEN. HAIG FOR DR. KISSINGER

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OCTOBER 11, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. KISSINGER

FROM: SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ITEMS

INTERNAL LAO PEACE TALKS: THE PATHET LAO RADIO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ON OCTOBER 4 AND 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUVANNA GOVERNMENT AND THE LAO COMMUNISTS REACHED AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON A LAOTIAN PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE PATHET N ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION PROVIDE AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT A TEN-MAN DELEGATION IN THE COMING WEEK FROM HANOI TO VIENTIANE.

ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR GODLEY, PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF THE FORTHCOMING TALKS AND IS CLAIMING THAT CHINESE PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI HAS URGED THE PATHET LAO TO CONCLUDE AN EARLY SETTLEMENT. THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED THAT IN RECENT STATEMENTS BOTH THE SOUVANNA GOVERNMENT AND PATHET LAO HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR DETERMINATION TO SEPARATE THE LAOTIAN PROBLEM FROM THE REST OF INDOCHINA WHILE THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY LIKEWISE NOW FAVORS A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT. WHILE GODLEY HIMSELF IS SKEPTICAL ON THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT, HE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT WE ADOPT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS A SEPARATE SETTLEMENT IN LAOS. (I.E., WE SHOULD SAY NOTHING LINKING A LAOS CEASEFIRE TO DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REST OF INDOCHINA).

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WE REMAIN VERY SKEPTICAL ABOUT A GENERAL LAOS SETTLEMENT AND SEE LITTLE THAT IS ORIGINAL IN THE PATHET LAO'S OR THE SOVIET'S ESPOUSAL OF A SEPARATE INDOCHINA PEACE. HANOI HAS LONG ADVOCATED THIS POSITION AND HAS REJECTED OUR PROPOSALS FOR AN INDOCHINA-WIDE CEASEFIRE. WHILE THERE IS SMALL PROSPECT FOR AN OVERALL LAOTIAN AGREEMENT, GODLEY'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON U.S. ATTITUDES TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS ON A SEPARATE PEACE NEVERTHELESS, DO NOT SQUARE WITH OUR CALL FOR AN INDOCHINA-WIDE CEASEFIRE NOR DO THEY ACCORD WITH SIMILAR POSITIONS ADOPTED BY PRESIDENT THIEU. A CEASEFIRE EXCLUDING THE TRAIL AREA APPEARS ONLY A SLIGHTLY MORE REALISTIC. BOTH SIDES MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN A CEASEFIRE FOR THE REST OF LAOS, BUT EVEN THIS ARRANGEMENT COULD BE DEADLOCKED.

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State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
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TO THE 1962 CEASEFIRE LINES. THE PATHET LAO ACCORDINGLY WOULD HAVE TO EVACUATE THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU AND THE PLAINE DES JARRES -- A STEP THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO TAKE WITHOUT AT LEAST AN END TO U.S. BOMBING OF THE TRAIL.

ROGERS-SINGH MEETING: DURING HIS MEETING WITH INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SWARAN SINGH LAST WEEK, SECRETARY ROGERS INDICATED THAT WE WERE "PERPLEXED" BY MRS. GANDHI'S ALLEGATIONS REGARDING CIA ACTIVITIES. SINGH INSISTED THAT INDIA HAD ITS OWN REPORTS "PROVING" IMPROPER CIA ACTIVITIES AND, WHEN CHALLENGED, WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT THESE ACTIVITIES MIGHT NOT BE KNOWN TO POLICY OFFICIALS AS IT WAS WELL KNOWN THAT CIA WAS SEPARATE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AND FUNCTIONED IN AN INDEPENDENT MANNER. THE SECRETARY DENIED THIS AND SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTEREST IN INTERFERING IN INDIAN AFFAIRS AND THAT IF INDIA THOUGHT IT HAD ANY EVIDENCE IT SHOULD BE PRESENTED PRIVATELY. THE SECRETARY ALSO STRONGLY CRITICIZED INDIAN STATEMENTS THAT IT WAS UP TO THE CIA TO DISPROVE ALLEGATIONS AND ASSERTED THAT SUCH CHARGES COULD ONLY HAVE A HARMFUL EFFECT ON U.S.-INDIA RELATIONS.

MRS. GANDHI REACTED TO THIS CONVERSATION OVER THE WEEKEND BY PUBLICLY STATING SHE WAS "VERY PLEASED" WITH SECRETARY ROGERS' ASSURANCE THAT THE U.S. IS NOT INTERFERING IN INDIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SHE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE U.S. IS CHANGING SO MANY POLICIES THAT THEY MAY ALSO BE CHANGING THEIR "OLD POLICY OF INTERFERENCE." EARLIER, MRS. GANDHI HAD CLAIMED THAT HER PREVIOUS REMARKS ABOUT CIA HAD BEEN MISQUOTED AND SHE HAD ONLY INTENDED TO WARN OF THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERVENTION. THUS SHE MAY BE TONING THIS CAMPAIGN DOWN, ALTHOUGH NOT GRACEFULLY.

(HOSKINSON/SAUNDERS)
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